ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Declaration by the Presidency of the European Union on the observation of the presidential elections in the Dominican Republic

The European Union is grateful to the Dominican authorities for their invitation to make available a mission of observers on the occasion of the first round of the presidential elections on Thursday, 16 May. Given the short notice with which the request was formulated, the European Union regrets not being able to ensure an adequate coordination of the initiative. Nevertheless, the European Union wishes to underline the willingness of the Dominican authorities to guarantee to the elections the greatest transparency and fairness and invites all the parties involved to do their utmost in order for the elections to take place regularly and in a climate of national unity.